

CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A catheter connector comprising:
 - a body comprising a cannula and a tail, said cannula extending from a distal end of said body and being sized to slidably receive a catheter thereon, said tail extending from a proximal end of said body and being sized to slidably receive a tube thereon, wherein said body is configured for fluid flow therethrough; and
 - a securing device attached to said body at said distal end, comprising mating portions configured to secure said catheter to said body by locking together around said catheter following positioning of said catheter over said cannula.
2. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said body and said securing device are unitary.
3. The catheter connector according to claim 2, wherein said securing device is attached to said body by a living hinge.
4. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said securing device is separately attachable to said body.
5. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said body further comprises a ribbed region.
6. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said cannula is comprised of metal.

7. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said tail comprises a barbed end.

8. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein an open end of said cannula comprises a rounded edge.

9. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein an open end of said cannula comprises a beveled edge.

10. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said mating portions are connected by a living hinge.

11. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said mating portions comprise catheter receiving portions having distal ends that are funneled outward.

12. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said mating portions comprise catheter receiving portions that together accommodate said catheter when closed therearound so that a tight seal is formed between said catheter receiving portions and said catheter.

13. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said mating portions comprise locking portions having rounded distal ends.

14. The catheter connector according to claim 1, further comprising a winged covering apparatus positioned over at least a portion of said body.

15. The catheter connector according to claim 14, wherein said winged covering apparatus is made of silicone.

16. The catheter connector according to claim 14, wherein said body further comprises a region having a non-uniform outer surface, said winged covering apparatus comprising an inner surface configured to mesh with said non-uniform outer surface to prevent relative movement of said body with respect to said winged covering apparatus.

17. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said body further comprises a head positioned at a distal end thereof, said cannula extending from said head.

18. The catheter connector according to claim 17, wherein said mating portions are separately attached to said body and comprise cut-away portions to receive said head therein.

19. The catheter connector according to claim 18, wherein said head is slightly smaller than said cut-away portions.

20. The catheter connector according to claim 1, wherein said mating portions further comprise catheter gripping liners.

21. An assembly for connecting a catheter to extracorporeal medical equipment, comprising:

a catheter connector comprising a body having a lumen therethrough and a securement device attached to said body at a distal end thereof, said securement device configured to secure said catheter to said body such that said body lumen is in fluid communication with said catheter;

a tube connected at one end to a proximal end of said body and at an opposite end to a hub such that said body lumen is in fluid communication with said hub; and

a covering positioned over at least a portion of said body and said tube, said covering being adapted for attachment to a patient.

22. The catheter connector according to claim 21, wherein said body comprises a cannula extending from a distal end thereof, wherein said cannula is sized to slidingly receive a catheter thereon.

23. The catheter connector according to claim 22, wherein said securement device comprises mating portions that are configured to lock together around said catheter following positioning of said catheter over said cannula.

24. The catheter connector according to claim 21, wherein said covering comprises winged portions.

25. The catheter connector according to claim 21, further comprising a sleeve to secure said tube to said hub.

26. A catheter connector comprising:
 - a stem having at least one lumen extending longitudinally from a proximal end to a distal end, said stem comprising at least one prong at said distal end, configured for insertion into a lumen of a catheter;
 - at least one extension tube in fluid communication with said lumen of said stem;
 - a hub surrounding at least a portion of said stem, configured for attachment to a patient;
 - a clamp coupled to said stem, configured to close around a tip of said prong following insertion of said prong into said lumen of said catheter; and
 - a collar movable from a first position to a second position, wherein said collar in said second position retains said clamp in a closed position.
27. The catheter connector according to claim 26, wherein said stem comprises a first and second prong, having a gap therebetween.
28. The catheter connector according to claim 27, wherein said stem comprises a first and second lumen in respective fluid communication with said first and second prong.
29. The catheter connector according to claim 28, further comprising a first and second extension tube in respective fluid communication with said first and second lumen.
30. The catheter connector according to claim 26, wherein said tip of said prong is larger than said lumen of said catheter.

31. The catheter connector according to claim 26, wherein said stem further comprises a stop positioned proximal of said prong, said stop having a diameter greater than the diameter of an outer wall of said catheter.

32. The catheter connector according to claim 26, wherein said clamp comprises a base and a pair of matching members, wherein each of said matching members are attached to said base via a living hinge.

33. The catheter connector according to claim 26, wherein said clamp and said collar are configured for locking engagement with one another.

34. The catheter connector according to claim 33, wherein said clamp comprises a raised section around an outer wall thereof and said collar comprises a recessed section on an inner wall thereof, wherein movement of said recessed section over said raised section creates said locking engagement.

35. The catheter connector according to claim 33, wherein said clamp and said collar are configured with mating thread portions for screwing one to the other.

36. An attachable bifurcation comprising:

a stem enclosing a first and second lumen and comprising a first and second prong at a distal end thereof, wherein said first and second prongs are configured for insertion into the proximal end of a dual lumen catheter;

a first and second extension tube in respective fluid communication with said first and second lumens of said stem;

a hub surrounding at least a portion of said stem, configured for attachment to a patient;

a clamp coupled to said stem, configured to close around said first and second prongs following insertion of said prongs into said dual lumen catheter; and

a collar movable from a first position to a second position, wherein said collar in said second position retains said clamp in a closed position.

37. The attachable bifurcation according to claim 35, wherein each of said first and second prongs have a tip that is larger than said lumen of said catheter.

38. The attachable bifurcation according to claim 35, wherein said stem further comprises a stop positioned proximal of said prongs, said stop having a diameter greater than the diameter of an outer wall of said catheter.

39. The attachable bifurcation according to claim 35, wherein said clamp comprises a base and a pair of matching members, wherein each of said matching members are attached to said base via a living hinge.

40. The attachable bifurcation according to claim 35, wherein said clamp and said collar are configured for locking engagement with one another.

41. The attachable bifurcation according to claim 39, wherein said clamp comprises a raised section around an outer wall thereof and said collar comprises a recessed section on an inner wall thereof, wherein movement of said recessed section over said raised section creates said locking engagement.

42. A catheter connector for attachment to a catheter, wherein said catheter comprises at least one lumen and a hub attached to a proximal end thereof, comprising:

at least one cannula; and

a latching mechanism disposed near a proximal end of said cannula, said latching mechanism extending outwardly from a longitudinal axis of said cannula in a first position and being movable inward toward said longitudinal axis in a second position, said latching mechanism being biased in said first position.

43. The catheter connector according to claim 41, wherein said hub comprises at least one lumen in fluid communication with said at least one catheter lumen and internal indents shaped to receive said latching mechanism.

44. The catheter connector according to claim 41, wherein said catheter connector comprises two cannulas and said catheter comprises two lumens.

45. The catheter connector according to claim 41, wherein said cannula has the same shape in cross-section as that of said lumen.